



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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## Cleveland Program is Proof that Parental Choice Works

The latest study of the Cleveland Scholarship Program, released today by the Indiana Center for Evaluation, reveals that children who began the program as kindergartners demonstrated significantly higher academic achievement by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade than their public school counterparts. The study covers the 1998-2000 period and reinforces Republican efforts to expand education options for parents.

"The findings should surprise no one with any grounding in the real world: giving parents options increases the odds of academic success," said Clint Bolick of the Institute for Justice.

Recent House GOP accomplishments provide an array of new options to parents -- and represent significant breakthroughs on the road to private school choice and equal educational opportunity. When President Bush signed the tax relief bill, the first part of his education plan became a reality: expanding education savings accounts (ESAs) to include K-12 education.

Other vital new options for parents -- immediate public and charter school choice for children in failing schools and allowing parents to use Title I money for private, supplemental educational services -- passed as part of the House version of the Bush plan and now await final approval by Congress.

These changes represent a significant departure from the status quo and will empower low-income parents with new options and new choices. They represent an important step toward equal educational opportunity in America -- but not by any means the final step. By passing the education reform bill, Congress will make a difference for students and lay the groundwork for reforms that go even further for parents and children.

### Message of the Day

**School choice works. Studies have proven that state choice programs increase student achievement in reading, language, math, and science.**

- ❑ *School choice gives parents the tools they need to decide what's right for their children's educational future, regardless of income.*
- ❑ *No child should be forced to remain trapped in a school that will not teach and will not change.*
- ❑ *The President's plan offers new hope to students in chronically failing schools.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- If a school does not make adequate yearly progress after one year, H.R. 1 requires a school district to implement certain corrective actions to improve the school, such as replacing certain staff, as well as offer public school choice immediately to all students in the failing school.
- H.R. 1 allows parents to use Title I funds to provide supplementary educational services -- including tutoring, after school services, and summer school programs -- for their children. Parents will choose from a list of providers that meet certain criteria, including private faith-based providers.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"[S]chool choice is not simply an accountability issue, it is a moral and civil rights issue. It is about empowering poor parents with the option of a better education when their children are trapped in schools that repeatedly fail to meet basic standards."* **William J. Bennett, Los Angeles Times, May 4, 2001**